

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BONN 07949 171734Z

72

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11 INR-10

LAB-06 NSAE-00 RSC-01 SIL-01 SAJ-01 NIC-01 DODE-00

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USIA-15 DRC-01 /135 W

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2616

INFO USMISSION BERLIN

USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

USMISSION OECD PARIS

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

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PAGE 02 BONN 07949 171734Z

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, GW

SUBJECT: DGB VIEWS ON ETUC CONGRESS

REF: BONN 6169

1. SUMMARY: IN PREPARATION FOR THE MAY EUROPEAN TRADE UNION CONFEDERATION CONGRESS, THE DGB HAS REAFFIRMED ITS OPPOSITION TO COMMUNIST UNION AFFILIATION. DGB PRESIDENT VETTER APPARENTLY WILL NOT RUN FOR THE ETUC PRESIDENCY. END SUMMARY.

2. IN RECENT DGB AND METAL UNION EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETINGS, DGB POLICY INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE DGB DELEGATION TO THE FORTHCOMING EUROPEAN TRADE UNION CONFEDERATION (ETUC) HAVE BEEN APPROVED.

3. DGB SOURCES, IN CONVERSATIONS WITH THE EMBASSY'S LABOR ATTACHE, INDICATE THAT DGB PRESIDENT HEINZ OSKAR VETTER WILL NOT RUN FOR THE ETUC PRESIDENCY SINCE MANY CONTROVERSIAL ISSUES ARE PENDING IN THE ETUC. THE DGB WISHES TO BE FREE TO ARTICULATE ITS OWN VIEWS AND TO INFLUENCE ETUC DECISIONS. IF VETTER WERE ETUC PRESIDENT, THESE SOURCES CLAIM, HE WOULD BE BOUND BY MAJORITY ETUC EXECUTIVE COUNCIL DECISIONS AND BEAR THE CONSEQUENCES OF POLICIES THE DGB HAS OPPOSED IN THE PAST.

4. THE DGB WILL CONTINUE TO PRESS FOR AN ETUC ACTION PLAN WITH THE DGB'S PRINCIPAL INTEREST BEING THE INCREASE OF TRADE UNION INFLUENCE WITHIN THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY TO EXTEND FRG SOCIAL POLICY GAINS THROUGHOUT THE EC, E.G., ON LABOR MANAGEMENT CODETERMINATION, COMPULSORY BANKRUPTCY INSURANCE FOR PROTECTING WORKERS' INCOMES AND UNIFORM HARBOR LABOR SAFETY REGULATIONS.

5. THE DGB WILL CONTINUE TO OPPOSE AFFILIATION OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 BONN 07949 171734Z

COMMUNIST UNIONS, SUCH AS THE ITALIAN CGIL AND FRENCH CGT, WITH THE ETUC. DGB SOURCES CLAIM PROSPECTS ARE FAVORABLE FOR AVOIDING ANY ETUC CONGRESS APPROVAL OF CGIL OR CGT AFFILIATION. AS AN INDICATION OF ITS NEW EMPHASIS ON IMPROVING RELATIONS WITH THE AFL-CIO, DGB REPS INFORMED AFL-CIO EUROPEAN REP BROWN ON THIS LATEST DECISION TO CONTINUE OPPOSITION TO ITALIAN CGIL AFFILIATION.

6. DGB PRESIDENT VETTER SCHEDULED A MEETING IN LONDON DURING THE WEEK OF MAY 6 TO DISCUSS THE FORTHCOMING ETUC CONGRESS. HOWEVER, HE CANCELLED THIS TRIP AFTER THE "GUILLAUME SPY AFFAIR" AND THE RESIGNATION OF CHANCELLOR BRANDT TO PARTICIPATE IN THE SPD DISCUSSIONS ON THE FORMATION OF A NEW GOVERNMENT. HILLENBRAND

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